

Rare & Endangered Species

British Columbia is world-renowned for its spectacular natural heritage. The variety of plants and animals that live here provide important environmental, social, cultural and economic benefits to the Province and its residents.

BC has an internationally important role in conservation with its diversity of eco systems and landscapes that provides hope for many regionally, nationally and globally significant species.

There are a number of species assessed as endangered, threatened or of special concern. Everyone must work together to protect species, their habitats and biodiversity overall.

How are Rare & Endangered Species categorized?

RED LISTED – Any native species, subspecies and/or ecological communities in BC that are at the greatest risk of being lost.

BLUE LISTED – Any native species, subspecies and/or ecological communities in BC that are of special concern.

YELLOW LISTED – Any native species, subspecies and/or ecological communities in BC that currently are apparently secure or secure (at least risk of being lost).

This panel contains 1 example of each At-Risk species (Amphibian, Bird, Insect, Mammal and Reptile) and 1 At-Risk Ecological Plant Community found on Mt Rose Swanson.

Northern Rubber Boa

Charina bottae

BLUE LISTED

DESCRIPTION

- Slender, shiny, stout-bodied snake that looks and feels like rubber.
- Length: 35-83cm (adult).
- Back is black brown to olive green. Belly is cream to yellow.
- Short head with vertical pupils.
- Short blunt tail gives it a two-headed appearance.



Adult Rubber Boa
Photo: Hezarist

Hibernates in
commodal dens from
November to March

LIFE HISTORY

- Mating occurs upon re-emergence from hibernation. Young are born from August to November.
- Give birth to live young, usually 10-15 of 1's.
- Females reproduce usually once every 4 yrs.
- Relatively small home range.
- Very docile, not poisonous.
- Feeds primarily on shrews, voles and mice.
- Easily preyed upon by raptors, coyotes and raccoons.

IMPORTANT HABITAT FEATURES

- Burrows into rotting logs. Also found under rocks, logs or bark.
- Hibernation and breeding on and around rock outcrops.
- Foraging: damp woodland and coniferous forest, large grassy areas, meadows, and moist sandy areas along streams.



Baby Rubber Boa
Photo: Carl Koch

COMMON NIGHTHAWK

Chordeiles minor

BLUE LISTED



Photo: Andy Reag & Chinsky McClaren

LIFE HISTORY

- Life span is usually 4 - 5 years.
- Forages in light and most active near dusk and dawn.
- Eat beetles, moths, grasshoppers, winged ants, termites.
- Females lays eggs on a flat surface. No nest is built.
- Both parents feed the young regurgitated insects.

DESCRIPTION

- Medium-sized bird with long, narrow, pointed wings, and a long tail that is slightly notched.
- In flight distinctive white wing patches are evident.
- Plumage is dark brown with black, white, and buff specks.
- Has a bounding, erratic flight.
- A loud nasal call, "tsen" or "caw-yeh", heard primarily at dusk.

IMPORTANT HABITAT FEATURES

- Require open areas for nesting habitat such as grasslands, rock outcrops, and bums.



Photo: John Williams

Twelve-spotted Skimmer

Libellula pulchella

BLUE LISTED



Male Twelve-spotted Skimmer
Photo: G. Gordon E. Robertson

LIFE HISTORY

- Adult males are aggressively territorial.
- During egg laying, a female taps the water with the end of her abdomen.
- The larvae, called naiads, dark orange-brown in colour and they live in the debris on the bottom of lakes, ponds and meadows.
- Naiads feed on a wide variety of aquatic insects. They will also eat small fish and tadpoles.
- After feeding and growing, naiads eventually crawl out of the water onto vegetation and molt into winged adults.
- The adults prey on a wide range of soft-bodied flying insects.
- Prey are usually captured in flight with its spiny legs.

DESCRIPTION

- A large species of dragonfly.
- Have 2 pairs of banded or spotted wings.
- Can work their 4 wings independently producing an extremely agile flight.
- Superb aerial predators.



Naiad

Photo credit: Not available

IMPORTANT HABITAT FEATURES

- Most common in exposed, nutrient-rich, marshy lakes and ponds.



Female Twelve-spotted Skimmer
Photo: G. Gordon E. Robertson

AMERICAN PINE MARTEN

Martes americana

BLUE LISTED



Adult Pine Marten
Photo: Bailey Parsons

LIFE HISTORY

- Diet is omnivorous and varies by season, but relies chiefly on small mammals.
- Litter of 1 - 5 kits born in spring.
- Young stay with the mother in a constructed den until the fall.
- Usual life span is 4 years.
- Their predators include raptors and other carnivores.
- Home ranges are indicated by scent marking.
- Are well adapted to snow.

DESCRIPTION

- Long, slender-bodied weasel.
- Large rounded ears, short limbs and a bushy tail.
- Triangular shaped head and a shiny coat.
- Long silky fur ranges from yellowish to brown to near black. Has a characteristic bib that is a distinctly different colour than the body.
- Males are much larger than females.

IMPORTANT HABITAT FEATURES

- Live in both old and young deciduous and coniferous forests.



Pine Marten kit
Photo credit: Not available

Western Skink

Plestiodon anthracinus

BLUE LISTED



Juvenile Western Skink
Photo credit: Not available

DESCRIPTION

- Medium-sized lizard with a long tail, smooth, shiny scales, a pointed head, and short legs.
- Four longitudinal, light-colored stripes extend from the head to the base of the tail.
- Juveniles have a red line tail (distinguishing characteristic), which fades as they mature.

Usually hibernates in
commodal dens
from the beginning
of October to the
end of February

IMPORTANT HABITAT FEATURES

- Often found in relatively damp habitats, but they also occupy drier upland areas.
- Require an abundance of rocks or decaying wood for cover.
- They inhabit sunny rocky outcrops and stable talus slopes.
- Prefer habitats with a southern aspect.

LIFE HISTORY

- Mating in May/June
- Eggs laid usually in one clutch of 2-8 eggs
- Stage hatch in July/August
- Reach sexual maturity at about 3 years old, and can live to a maximum age of about 8 years.
- They consume a variety of insect species.
- Are preyed upon by mammals, birds and reptiles.

Adult Western Skink
Photo: Connor Long



Black Cottonwood

Populus nigra

RED LISTED



Black Cottonwood
Photo: Dana Bressette

IMPORTANT HABITAT FEATURES

- Found in distinct areas on Mt. Rose Swanson - a warm climate usually associated with water. Sometimes in old and mature forests.
- Soils are medium to coarse in texture and the nutrients values range from medium to very rich.



Female Catkin
Photo: Thayne Taitien



Male Catkin
Photo: Thayne Taitien

Red-listed Ecological Communities

DESCRIPTION

- There are 4 plant communities found in association with Black Cottonwood:
 1. Common Strawberry/Rose species
 2. Douglas Fir/Common Snowberry/Red Cedar/Dogwood.
 3. Douglas Fir/Douglas Maple/Common Snowberry.
 4. Common Snowberry/Common Horsetail.

• These communities are very rare and have a very restricted distribution.



Black Cottonwood Leaves
Photo credit: Not available

LIFE HISTORY

- Delicious broadleaf tree species native to western North America.
- Cottonwoods mature as early as 60 years and live 200 years or more.
- The bark is grey becoming thick and deeply fissured on old trees.
- Male and female catkins are borne on separate trees.